

5. THE ZINC PHOSPHATIZING OPERATION

During July of 1986 the Zinc Phosphatizing operation was decommissioned. The Zinc Phosphatizing operation was a five step, five tank process that prepared metal parts for painting. The five steps were:

1. Alkaline Degreaser
2. Rinse
3. Zinc Phosphatizing
- 4 .Rinse
- 5 .Zinc Chrome Bath

The first four tanks were drained into the Wastewater Treatment plant's pH control sump and were cut up for scrap. Special precautions were taken in handling tank Number Five, the Zinc Chrome bath, due to high levels of hexavalent chrome.

Decommissioning began with the Zinc Chrome bath being treated with sodium meta bisulfite to reduce the hexavalent chrome to a trivalent state. The solution was then pumped from the tank to the wastewater treatment plant's pH control sump and processed thru the system. The chrome was precipitated out in the wastewater treatment plant, solidified as filter cake sludge and disposed of as a hazardous waste at Cecos, Niagara Falls. After removal of the bath, the tank was filled with water and the water tested for chrome and sent to the wastewater treatment plant. This process was repeated until the chrome level in the water in the tank was less than 2.27 mg/l, the level established by Alcosan for the US&S discharge permit. The tank was then cut up and disposed of as scrap.

The area surrounding the tanks was swept clean and the sweepings disposed of as a hazardous waste at Cecos in Niagara Falls.